Vedic Mathematics in Delhi, circulated the observations of Dr. P. L. Bhatnagar, former Director, Mehta Research Institute of Mathematics, Allahabad, if so, what are the details thereof;

(b) whether such a bolstering of students' interest was likely to reduced their present large number of failures in Mathematics; and

(c) if so, whether Government would undertake trials in selected schools in various States to observe the effects and potentiality of Vedic Mathematics?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE DEPARTMENTS OF EDUCATION AND CULTURE IN THE MINISTRY OF HUMAN RESOURCE DEVELOPMENT (SHRI L. P. SHAHI): (a) Yes, Sir. Details are furnished in the statement (*See* below)

(b) and (c) It will be premature to undertake trials in schools before establishing the mathematical foundations of the Sutras.

Statement

Observations of Dr. Bhatnagar are:—

The operations of Vedic Mathematics reduce the length and number of steps involved in calculations and they can provide a major advantage to those who have no access to arithmatic calculating devices.

The application of Sutras provides easier methods of arriving at results and it would give the students easy success in solving problems. Vedic Mathematics is likely to generate greater interest among students and reduce the adverse effects that so often result from failure and frustration which we find in our ordinary system of teaching and learning mathematics.

Afghanistan's request to India for solution on its problems

2354. DR. RATNAKAR PANDEY:

SHRIMATI RATAN KUMARI:

Will the Minister of EXTERNAL AFFAIRS be pleased to state:

(a) whether the Afghanistan Government have recently approached the Government of India for help to solve the Afghan problem; and

(b) if so, what are the details thereof and what action Government propose to take in the matter?

THE MINISTER OF STATE IN THE MINISTRY OF EXTERNAL AFFAIRS (SHRI K. NATWAR SINGH): (a) India has been in constant touch with the Government of Afghanistan over the evolving situation in that country. Most recently discussions were held during the visit of the Afghan Foreign Minister.

(b) Contacts with the Afghan Government have focussed on the need to prevent further bloodshed and to promote a peaceful negotiated settlement in Afghanistan. Government try to keep in touch with all shades of Afghan opinion in this regard.

रेलवे के कर्मचारियों को पुरस्कार व सुविधाएं

2355. **कुमारी सईदा खातून:**

श्रीमती सत्या बहिन:

क्या रेल मंत्री यह बताने की कृपा करेंगे कि :

(क) क्या रेलवे के उन कर्मचारियों को, जिन्होंने साहित्य, खेलकूद, समाज सेवा तथा राष्ट्रीय एकता आदि में विशेष योगदान किया है, कोई पुरस्कार अथवा सुविधाएं दी जा रही हैं; और

(ख) यदि हां, तो उनका ब्यौरा क्या है ?